

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10  
NEA-11 /110 W  
-----103562 241902Z /43

O 241721Z MAY 78 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7341  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1047

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA  
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING WITH PM VORSTER

FOLLOWING IS THE AGREED REPORT OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE ON  
THEIR MEETING WITH PM VORSTER TODAY, MAY 24:

1. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MET THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HALF  
AN HOUR AT 1630 LOCAL TIME THIS AFTERNOON. HE WAS  
ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER BOTHA, FOURIE AND THREE AIDES.  
WE READ TO HIM THE MESSAGE FROM THE FIVE GOVTS  
AND THEREAFTER HANDED A COPY TO HIM.

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2. MR. VORSTER WAS IN A SOMBRE MOOD AND IMMEDIATELY  
PICKED UP THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE MESSAGE, ASKING WHAT  
POSITIVE STEPS WE HAD IN MIND. WE ANSWERED IN TERMS  
OF PARA 11 OF RESOLUTION 385 AND MADE THE OTHER  
POINTS IN PARA 3 OF OUR INSTRUCTIONS ON CONTINGENCY  
TALKING POINTS (USUN 2024).

3. MR. VORSTER THEN ASKED IF WE SHARED THE DOUBTS TO WHICH THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF THE MESSAGE REFERRED. HE SAID THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE, HE WOULD BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY. WE SAID THAT WE WERE NOT EXPRESSING OUR OWN DOUBTS BUT THE DOUBTS OF MANY WHOSE SUPPORT WE WOULD NEED IF WE WERE TO ENSURE A MAJORITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. MR. VORSTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS FAST REACHING THE POINT, IF HE HAD NOT REACHED IT ALREADY, WHERE HE SERIOUSLY REGRETTED HAVING STARTED THE NEGOTIATIONS AT ALL. IF HE HAD KNOWN THAT THERE WOULD BE SO MUCH FEET-DRAGGING (SIC), HE DOUBTED WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE BECOME INVOLVED. IT WAS HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT SWAPO WAS PLAYING THE FOOL WITH THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS. SWAPO WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ORDERLY ELECTIONS BUT, AS NUJOMA SAID, WANTED A REVOLUTIONARY TAKE-OVER. HE COULD SEE NO REASON WHY SWAPO COULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO OUR PROPOSALS WITHIN THE SAME PERIOD AS THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD. FURTHER DELAY WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT AND CAUSE SOUTH AFRICA TO LOSE CREDIBILITY IN THE TERRITORY. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN HIS MIND, THE WEST WERE LOSING FACE AND CREDIBILITY THROUGHOUT AFRICA. "THEY ARE ALREADY LAUGHING BEHIND YOUR BACKS".

5. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT A MAN TO GIVE ULTIMATUMS, HIS  
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CABINET HAD DECIDED TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTION IN THE TERRITORY AND HE COULD NOT WAIT MUCH LONGER. HE WAS PREPARED TO WAIT ANOTHER TWO WEEKS "BUT NOT A DAY LONGER." HE WOULD THEN HAVE TO ANNOUNCE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS. HE WAS COMMITTED TO MAKE THE TERRITORY INDEPENDENT BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND HE BELIEVED THAT WE HAD AGREED TO THAT. UNLESS THE PROCESS WERE STARTED NOW, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 31. "IF YOU SAY THAT THE CASSINGA RAID CAUSED A DELAY, IT IS MERELY A PRETEXT FOR SWAPO AND NOTHING ELSE." HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALWAYS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO COOPERATE WITH THE WEST: HE HAD SPOKEN VERY LITTLE IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHEN HE HAD, HE HAD WEIGHED EVERY WORD. UNFORTUNATELY, HE KNEW THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS WERE COMMITTED TO NUJOMA, JUST AS THEY WERE COMMITTED TO NKOMO AND MUGABE. IF THEY WANTED TO RUN THE SHOW, LET THEM DO SO; HE WOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO IT. MORE AND MORE RUMORS WERE NOW REACHING HIM -- AND HE REALIZED THAT THESE WERE NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATE -- THAT PROMISES HAD BEEN MADE OR WOULD BE MADE ABOUT WALVIS BAY. HE MUST WARN US AGAINST THAT VERY SERIOUSLY. HE HAD ALREADY MADE CLEAR THAT IF WALVIS BAY WERE DRAGGED INTO THE

NEGOTIATIONS, HE WOULD BREAK THEM OFF IMMEDIATELY.  
MR. VORSTER CONCLUDED BY REPEATING THAT WE WERE VERY  
NEAR THE END OF THE ROAD AND THAT HE WOULD NOT BE  
PREPARED TO WAIT MORE THAN A FORTNIGHT.

6. MR. VORSTER'S MOOD WAS SUCH THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT  
TO INTERVENE OR ANSWER HIS ARGUMENTS AS THEY WERE MADE.  
AS SOON AS HE HAD FINISHED, HOWEVER, WE POINTED OUT THAT  
WE HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS FOR WELL OVER  
A YEAR IN THE COURSE OF WHICH GREAT PATIENCE HAD BEEN  
DISPLAYED ON ALL SIDES. WE WOULD REPORT TO OUR GOVERNMENTS  
WHAT HE HAD SAID ABOUT THE NEED FOR EARLY ACTION,  
BUT WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE THAT BY THE  
END OF TWO WEEKS WE SHOULD HAVE REACHED FINALITY.  
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MR. VORSTER INTERJECTED TO SAY, "THAT'S TOO BAD. THEN  
YOU WILL SEE ME GOING ON." IN THE SHORT DISCUSSION WHICH  
FOLLOWED, WE URGED ON HIM THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT BUT WE  
SECURED LITTLE VISIBLE RESPONSE. IT WAS AGREED THAT WE  
WOULD TELL THE PRESS MERELY THAT THE DIALOGUE WAS  
CONTINUING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** NAMIBIA: CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING WITH PM VORSTER FOLLOWING IS THE AGREED REPORT OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE ON THEIR MEETING WITH PM VORSTER TODAY, MAY 24  
**TAGS:** PDEV, SF, WA, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (BOTH, PIK)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014